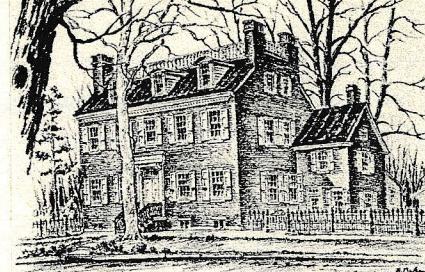


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# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

*Greenfield Hall*

Volume 51, No. 2

343 Kings Highway East - Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

May 2007

## CAMDEN AFTER THE FALL

**Wednesday evening, May 23, 7:30 in Greenfield Hall  
PowerPoint presentation with Dr. Howard Gillette, Jr.**

Camden, New Jersey

So near, and yet so far removed.

Once a flourishing, vital community, today one troubled by crime, drugs and violence.

How many residents of Haddonfield remember taking the bus in to Camden for a movie when they were teenagers? Or enjoying dinner at the hotel or a lovely restaurant? Those times seem so long ago.

Howard Gillette, Jr., Professor of History and Director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities at Rutgers University in Camden, will speak on **CAMDEN AFTER THE FALL** at our meeting on May 23. His talk and accompanying slide presentation will be based on his recent book, *Camden after the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post-industrial City* which won best book awards from the Urban History Association and the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance and was named an Honors Book by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities. In the thoroughly researched book, Dr. Gillette challenges the accepted idea of postwar urban decline.

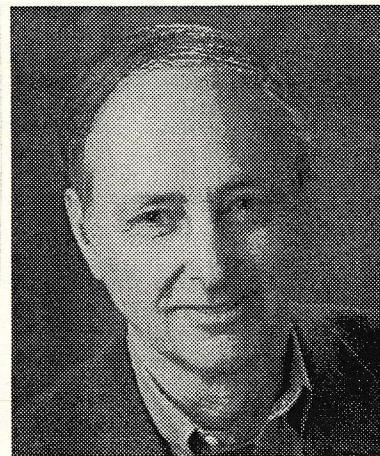
As director of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Center for the Humanities serving the Mid-Atlantic states of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, Professor Gillette has sought to bring new intellectual and monetary resources to cultural practice in the region. For this work, he was awarded Rutgers University's presidential service award and a special commendation from the New Jersey Historical Commission in 2006.

He is a frequent contributor to news as well as scholarly publications and the author of many articles on urban development and regional planning. His work in public history has included a role as a founder and first director of the Center for Washington Area Studies at the George Washington University and as editor of *Washington History*, the journal of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. He currently serves on the editorial boards of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* and the *Journal of Planning History* and is a past president of the Society for American City and Regional Planning History.

Don't miss this opportunity to get a different perspective on the situation in Camden. Enjoy refreshments and conversation with our speaker and fellow members in the keeping room after the program. *Camden after the Fall: Decline and Renewal in a Post-industrial City* will be available for sale at that time.

## PASSING THE TIME IN PAST TIMES

There's still time to visit Greenfield Hall to walk through our exhibit featuring antique sports equipment, seeing what Haddonfielders did in their spare time at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit, which will close at the end of June, can be viewed during regular hours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons from 1-4 and on the first Sunday afternoon of the month, also from 1-4, or by appointment by calling the office at 856-429-7375.



Dr. Howard Gillette

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Dianne Snodgrass

Dear Loyal Members:

A focus on our committees and their work, plus a plea to attend our events, couldn't be more appropriate as we enter into a new fiscal year. For one who is about to head down to Greenfield Hall's Gardens to participate in the spring clean up, the "support your organization's activities" philosophy could not be more appropriate. The dedicated few who endeavor to provide you with volunteer opportunities need the support of all of us.

For starters, you have recently received your membership renewal notification which, of course, you will return soon! Without our **Membership Committee**, chaired by Barbara Hilgen, we wouldn't know about your interests in local history. Do encourage your friends and colleagues to become new members. The **Finance Committee**, chaired by our outgoing treasurer, Bob Hilgen, and by incoming treasurer, Sue Reintzel, guides us through a maze of questions and decisions pertaining to dollars and, of course, deposits your kind donations.

Greenfield Hall, 1841, the Samuel Mickle House, c. 1720 and our garage, c. 1948, are ever in need of the usual and unusual maintenance and repair. **Buildings Committee** Chair, Ruth Sine, is currently spearheading the daunting job of organizing a major interior update. Bob Marshall, **Grounds Committee** Chair, not only organizes spring and fall clean ups, but makes planting decisions, confers with our gardens' contractors and can be found in the gardens on a weekly basis, maintaining flower beds and yanking nasty weeds.

Once inside our Library and Museum, the size and scope of our collections are awesome. Kathy Tassini, our **librarian**, manages our repository of reference and research paper documents from unique to rare to common, all pertaining to Haddonfield and its environs. In keeping with this same mission, the museum in Greenfield Hall divides collections' responsibilities three ways due to its overwhelming volume. Shirley Raynor oversees our **Doll Collection** which ranges from an unusual and large compilation of travel dolls to the beautiful, porcelain-faced Victorian examples. Don Wallace is Curator/Director of the **Tool Collection** in the cellars of Greenfield Hall which includes tools of many trades: carpenter, cooper, cobbler, farmer, blacksmith, ice harvester, printer, etc., plus a variety of domestic arts implements. The rest of the collections, from **Textiles to Furniture to Fine Arts**, falls under the collections management of Dianne Snodgrass.

In order to share our extensive acquisitions with our members and the public, fulfilling our organization's purpose, Ann Biddle, who chairs our **Education Committee**, organizes and presents learning experiences at Greenfield Hall for school and Scouting groups, takes a traveling trunk to classrooms and participates in our Adult School endeavors. Liz Albert, our **Exhibits Committee** Chair, artfully rotates presentations of our accessions which have included baby clothing, quilts, Haddonfield pottery, wedding gowns, 1920's and 1930's ladies' dresses and accessories. Don Wallace curated last year's Tool and Surname Exhibit. Our current exhibit, "Haddonfield at Play - Sports & Leisure," will stand until mid June 2007. Have you seen it?

Coordinating activities designed to generate the income needed to meet our overhead responsibilities plus special projects is our **Fund Raising Committee** Chair, Carol Smith. As you know, we receive **NO** outside funding (borough, county, state or federal). Our next event is the second annual Founder's Day, a brunch on Sunday, June 10, 2007, to be held at Greenfield Hall. Brainchild of trustee, Connie McCaffrey, you will read more about it within this Bulletin.

**Museum Shop**, newly refurbished and reopened, is under the direction of trustees Carol Malcarney and Connie McCaffrey. It now carries a variety of new items, such as flavored honey and moon spoons, as well as crocks, books and pamphlets. Come do your shopping during regular office hours.

Providing you with an interesting and historically educational program four times a year is our Vice President, Steve Kessler. It is, indeed, a tough job scouting for topics of interest, knowing that you cannot make everybody happy all of the time. Steve also chairs our **Rentals Committee** and coordinates and schedules events.

Responsible for getting out the word for our activities so that you can come to support them is Connie Reeves, **Publicity Committee** Chair. She uses print, audio and at times visual media and updates our website, [www.historicalsocietyofhaddonfield.org](http://www.historicalsocietyofhaddonfield.org). Have you checked it lately? Connie is also the editor and producer of the *Bulletin* you receive four times a year. This she has faithfully done for sixteen (16!) years.

All these committee chairs have volunteers. We are all working together to provide you with the best experiences. We need you to come out to enjoy them. Thank you, Volunteers. I look forward to greeting you soon. See you at Greenfield Hall and the Samuel Mickle House.

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## FOUNDER'S DAY 2007

### Essay Contest and Celebration Brunch

We'll be celebrating Founder's Day again this year in the Gardens of Greenfield Hall on Sunday, June 10. Something new has been added to our celebrations -- an **Essay Contest**. We're asking students in the area to think about life in 1701 -- the sights, sounds, smells of life 300 years ago. Our contest is open to all middle and high school students in the region with the topic: **When an apple grew on a tree and blackberries grew on bushes: Life in Haddonfield in 1701.** (1701 is the year Elizabeth Haddon arrived in Newton Colony, West Jersey.)

A \$100 Haddonfield gift certificate, redeemable at stores, restaurants, and businesses townwide, will be awarded to the winner in each age group. Essays should be 250-350 words in length, signed by the student, with the author's address,

phone number, grade and name of school at the bottom of the page. The entry deadline is May 25, 2007.

Mail essays to: Historical Society of Haddonfield, 343 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033. The winning essays will be a part of the permanent records of the Historical Society.

A **Founder's Day Celebration Brunch** will be served in the Gardens of Greenfield Hall, on Sunday, June 10, from 11:30 AM to 2:00 PM, donation \$15. Winning essays will be on display in Greenfield Hall and the prizes will be awarded to the winning student essayists during the festivities. Of course, those students who have won the awards and their families will be guests.

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## LIBRARY NEWS

by Kathy Tassini

As any of you who have visited the Society Library knows, we are more than a little pressed for space in the Samuel Mickle House these days. Now this is a good problem to have because it means that we are still receiving materials relevant to the history of Haddonfield including its organizations, residents, schools and events. This winter we have been looking long and hard at our space problems and thanks to the hard work (sometimes frustrating work) of Charlesanna Fallstick, Jean Gutsmith and Louis Fallstick, we have been able to gain some space in the basement. They have moved the inventory of currently available publications of the Society to a better location along a side wall and have erected new shelving in the middle of the space to accommodate more of our burgeoning collections. We have been able to order more archival storage boxes to safely organize and store additional materials as well as additions to the collection which are awaiting processing. Many thanks to Charlesanna, Jean and Louis for all their hard work.

This spring brings a loss to the library with the relocation to Rhode Island of one of our wonderful workers. June Truitt, a life-long resident of Haddonfield, has been a stalwart of the library for many years. Most recently, June has been creating a database for us of Haddonfield graduates, based on HMHS (formerly HHS) Shield Yearbooks going back to the 1890's. This project, along with our recently completed project to create address indexes to the Haddonfield Directory Collection, has already proved to be invaluable in our work with researchers. We are all going to miss June and her wonderful sense of humor, willingness to pitch in and dedication to her work here at the HSH Library.

We are, by the way, always looking for new volunteers who would like to work with the collections on either a regular or an irregular basis. There are lots of collections and projects which are both needed and interesting work for volunteers to do. We would love to have you join us.

Finally, with the coming of spring comes a change to the hours for the Library. We will continue to be open on Tuesdays and Thursdays through May 31. Beginning Monday, June 4, we will change to our summer schedule of MONDAY and TUESDAY mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 through Tuesday, July 31. We will also be open on Sunday, July 1. Along with Greenfield Hall, we are closed during the month of August, reopening for the fall schedule on Tuesday, September 4.

## **EARLY SPRING DYEING LESSON**

by Dianne Snodgrass

Collecting onion skins from local supermarkets' onion bins produced unanticipated guilt and so I bought one small onion at each stop. These shed, dried skins, an onion's way of preserving itself over winter, were used in an educational program at Greenfield Hall for Girl Scout Troop #555 from the Lutheran Church here in town. Rebecca Bryan, their leader, hustled eleven Scouts down after school in late March. This learning experience included a short explanation of coloring, specifically from the 17th and 19th centuries with primary source documentation, plus a discussion of what kinds of coloring materials would be naturally available in spring.

Four big pots were steaming away on our modern (c. 2000) stove containing the onion skins, tea, beets and spinach respectively. We used raw eggs for the dyeing lesson. Each Scout lowered into the pots about six eggs each. Then we waited in the old kitchen for the process to finish and spent that time talking about Guliema Penn's 17th century receipts on coloring and those of Elizabeth Ellicott Lea some 200 years later. These were two Quaker ladies. You recognize that Mrs. Penn and Mrs. Lea were from Maryland.

Unable to stand the suspense, the Scouts returned to the pots with spoons to extract the eggs. Tea produced sepia color, spinach a fairly faint green and the beets a disappointing hint of pink. It was the onion skins which produced the best color - a rich maple. I understand Martha Stewart suggests adding vinegar to beet water so the color will adhere to the calcium. (Beet pink, however, doesn't have a problem staining skin, porcelain sinks and stainless cooking pots.) I also understand that this lesson/experiment carried over to Easter in left-over asparagus cooking water and resulted in a better green than the

spinach. Still thinking - good job!

What a successful and truly delightful afternoon we had with these Scouts who were, indeed, interested in the lesson and now can apply this knowledge toward another badge. Hopefully you saw a photo capturing all this excitement and wonder on the front page of "The Haddonfield Sun" a few weeks back.

## **ROTARY'S GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION AND ANOTHER MATCH CHALLENGE**

by Dianne Snodgrass

It was with pride and great pleasure that I was able to represent our Historical Society at the Haddonfield Rotary Club's luncheon on Wednesday, April 18, 2007. At that time I was presented with a check for \$5000 by Rotary's President, David Hunter, as a contribution toward a gazebo in the Gardens at Greenfield Hall. The Historical Society benefited from Rotary's Annual Oyster Supper and Auction. On behalf of our Board of Trustees and general membership, I thanked the Rotarians for their generosity and community spirit, grateful to be a recipient of one of their local projects. Of course, I invited them all to come down to Greenfield Hall and the Samuel Mickle House Library and discover some of our many unique and rare treasures.

Joe Murphy, our past president from 1998-2002, has jumped on board and happily matched Rotary's \$5000. Together they will match your contribution 2 for 1, reported David Hunter. Our latest challenge is to raise another \$5000 minimum to be able to go forward with the gazebo project.

Do consider a donation toward this fundraiser now. We are all very proud of our new Garden and with the addition of the gazebo, our backyard will be the place to visit.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Bob Marshall, and members of the committee, Ann Biddle, Carol Carty, Barbara Hilgen, Warren Reitzel and Helene Zimmer-Loew have submitted the following slate of nominees for offices open this year:

**Treasurer**, Susan Reintzel

**Recording Secretary**, Carol Smith

**Corresponding Secretary**, Andrea Kelly

**Trustees** (Term expires 2010) – John Burmaster, Thomas Mervine, Benjamin Parvey, Helene Zimmer-Loew

**Trustee** (Term expires 2009, unexpired term of Warren Reintzel) – Patricia Lennon

We thank Bob Hilgen and Warren Reintzel for their service on the Board of Trustees over several terms and look forward to their continued participation on the Finance Committee and in other activities of the Society. We also thank Shirley Raynor for her service on the Board over several terms and look forward to her continued work with the Society's marvelous doll collection.

This list has been made available for review by the membership at Greenfield Hall and was voted on at the March annual meeting and Candlelight Dinner. Officers will be installed at our May meeting. Come to offer your congratulations and help as they begin their terms serving the Historical Society.

*June Truitt spent her early years growing up just outside Haddonfield and attended Haddonfield Memorial High School, graduating in 1954. Her memories vividly bring to life that period of the 1940's and early '50's, a time before high-speed lines, computers and television for everyone. June's article will continue in our next Bulletin.*

## RECOLLECTIONS FROM THE SIDELINES

by June Truitt

Recently, as a volunteer in the library of the Historical Society, I have been working on a project which has had the effect of stirring up many recollections of my childhood as I grew up within the circle of Haddonfield's influence. I have been creating a database of alumni from Haddonfield Memorial High School. Working my way through the pages of yearbooks, I have come face to face with classmates, neighbors, friends, parents' acquaintances, former Girl Scouts, ex-Sunday School mates, shop keepers and a host of other individuals whom I recognize, if I did not know personally.

It became clear to me that a large portion of the students who attended HMHS did not live in town. Rather, they came from sending districts such as Delaware Township (now Cherry Hill) and other areas where parents had the choice of several schools for their child's education. Haddon Township parents, for instance, could choose Haddonfield or Collingswood for their children. Students came from far-flung areas like Gibbsboro, Kirkwood, Voorhees Township (some from as far as across Route 73), Atco, Berlin, Medford, Marlton, South Merchantville, Evesham Road from Route 73 all the way through to Timber Creek, Blenheim, and Blackwood. You can get an idea of how rural the area was when you see addresses that simply say Black Horse Pike, Blackwood, or Kresson Road, Haddonfield. Approximately 57.5 percent of students came in from sending districts. The early ones traveled by train; later there were multiple school bus routes. In Louisa Gibb's diaries from the early twentieth century, she tells of her nephew coming in from Ashland on the train to school. He would come to her house for lunch and return there after school to do chores for her, such as digging a garden in the spring or repairing her board walk in front of the house before the days of sidewalks as we know them. His mother might pick him up later in the afternoon by horse and carriage and have a little visit with her aunts, or he might take the train back to Ashland and walk the rest of the way to the farm where he lived.

Many of the outlying students came from farm areas, and up until the 1940's, those students would be absent because of planting and harvesting seasons. They lost large periods of time and were chronically behind their classmates. There was no such practice as social promotion in schools, so a fourteen year old might be squeezing his long frame into a second grade desk, legs and feet sticking out into the aisles, with young children giggling behind their hands while the teenager struggled to read "Dick and Jane" stories.

I attended Wesley R. Stafford School on Haddonfield-Berlin Road until eighth grade. The school was situated in the midst of fields and surrounded by farmland. When we played baseball, we often had to run into high grass to retrieve a long ball. Baseball was the main sport for boys, softball for the girls. If you were picked last, you stood far out in the grass where you could daydream. For years I thought left field was a real position. Everybody who wanted to play could, and so places for them to stand were created.

In those days we made a great celebration of May Day. The students worked all winter preparing for this special day. Gym classes were spent learning to do the Maypole dance: over, under, over, under, boys and girls facing one another holding the multi-colored ribbons. On the big day, the girls were to wear white dresses to do the Maypole dancing, even though the exercises took place outdoors and May first was often still quite chilly. We sat shivering, huddled together on the great front lawn, trying not to cover up our pretty dresses with sweaters, listening to speeches, poetry recitals and music. Garlands and baskets of flowers decorated every available space.

One year a band from Westmont came to give a little concert. The bandmaster was dressed in a red and black bandleader's uniform and looked very smart. The program was arranged with pieces alternating in mood and tempo. The first piece was "Come to the Fair." All the cows in the pasture across the road left their barn and came to the end of the pasture, straining over the fence to hear the music. All was well until a Sousa March began. The cows were startled and began to gallop back to the barn. When the next piece began, a lilting "Early One Morning," the cows were seduced by the music and again came to the fence to listen. Once the band began to play a rollicking piece, they turned and ran to the barn. When it was over, they returned to the fence. This behavior continued throughout the concert with the cows reacting each time. By now, the students had noticed this amusing spectacle and were laughing out loud. Teachers were busy trying to shush the students but to no avail. The band director was at first puzzled by the



June before starting school

students' reaction and then appeared to be angry. At last he turned around and saw what the students were laughing about and joined in the laughter as he started a rousing tune and watched the cows make a terrified beeline for the barn.

Finally, it was time for the Maypole dancing which gave us a chance to get warm. With the colored ribbons winding around the pole, the occasion was bright and colorful. Later in the day there were races of every kind and the day was topped off by a baseball game.

In our neighborhood we used to make little May baskets filled with violets, pansies, daffodils, tulips, flowering fruit tree sprigs (whatever was available in the garden that year) and take them secretly to a special friend's house, leaving them at the door. By the 1950's, May Day was no longer celebrated; no more May Processions, no more May Queens crowned.

We lived very seasonal lives in the past, unlike the present where there is very little differentiation between the seasons, especially in food availability. We ate seasonally. In the summer we ate tomatoes and corn in every conceivable way. Most people grew tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, green onions and radishes. Melons and berries of all kinds were plentiful. Many people grew Concord grapes, currant bushes, rhubarb and asparagus, as well as strawberries, in their own gardens. Nearly every garden had an apple, cherry, or Kiefer pear tree. People ate the fruits out of hand or in pies, cobblers or crumbles and most households made their own jellies and jams. A winter pear cobbler or pie made with little slivers of crystallized ginger was sublime.

A typical way to celebrate spring was to have a special meal when the shad were running in the rivers. The meal consisted of shad and shad roe baked on a seasoned oak plank, boiled new potatoes with parsley and butter and steamed asparagus. The meal was finished off with strawberry shortcake made with scone-like biscuit dough, piled high with strawberries and fresh whipped cream. Some people preferred strawberry-rhubarb pie which was served with very sharp cheddar cheese, just like apple pie was always served in those times. It was not too many springs ago that I was still able to buy shad from Bickel's Market on Tanner Street.

There was one place, however, where out-of-season fruits might be available. This was the California Fruit Market on Kings Highway near Chestnut Street in Haddonfield. The most exotic fruits were found there when no other market had them in stock. Visiting the market was an education in not only unusual produce, such as Belgian endives, but also in imported biscuits and things to accompany tea. It was a sight to see all the packed orders lined up on a Saturday morning for the delivery boy to take on his bicycle to Haddonfield housewives. Many people ordered their weekly groceries and meats. Shop keepers knew them by long association and had a good grasp of their likes and dislikes. They also knew if the order was not filled properly, they would be getting it back by the same delivery boy promptly.

There was a comer grocery at Lakeview Avenue and Centre Street that delivered weekly orders also. Lytle's delicatessen was on Kings Highway for many years. It was an old-fashioned store with wooden floors covered in sawdust. There were large barrels of pickles and crackers. Every imaginable form of cold cuts could be found there: glistening souse, blood sausage, tongue among them. To me the most important part of the shop was the peanut roaster which cranked out wonderful peanut smells all up and down the highway, drawing us in for a small paper bag of nuts still warm in their shells. Truly gourmet items still had to be procured in Philadelphia at the William Penn Gift Shop or Stuart Lewis Gourmet Shop which carried such exotica as brie or feta cheeses. On Fridays, people were lined up out the door and on the sidewalk of Murphy's Fish Market on Ellis Street, waiting to pick up their orders of fish. The flounder and fluke fillets were extraordinary and you might see oysters the size of your hand. Again, the wooden floor was covered in sawdust.

Supermarkets were a new idea and people came to them out of curiosity at first, reluctant to give up the comer groceries. When the A&P and Acme markets opened in Haddonfield, people came from all over to shop there. Haddonfield was a major shopping hub for the surrounding towns which had only small grocery stores with a butcher on the premises. Before I moved to Haddonfield, I picked up eggs at the Post Office in my small town with the mail since the postmaster was a neighbor of the poultry man and it saved everyone an extra trip. More than once I came home with a broken egg in my bicycle basket because the streets were not all paved well and the eggs were in a paper bag, not in an egg box.

During the summer, when I was very young, various tradesmen would come by horse and wagon or primitive truck, traveling up and down the streets, calling out their wares. The ice men were always followed by a group of boys trying to get bits of ice to suck on or hitch a ride on the back of the truck. On Fridays the fishmonger would come, calling out the catch of the day. There were bushels of crabs and clams and fish laid out on ice while the scale for weighing the fish swung from the back of the truck. Ragmen came to pick up any old clothes you might want to discard and a man came with clothes props and sang a pretty song to attract our attention. Produce in season came around by horse and wagon with the driver announcing his specials in a sing-song way. I loved horses, so I was sure to be there when I heard the clip-clopping of the old nag down the street. The horse, Napoleon, wore a flower decorated straw hat with holes cut out for his ears. Petting the horse was not encouraged by the huckster so I was always disappointed, even if Mother bought an ice cold watermelon for dessert. In those days dessert was almost always fruit. In the winter

months we had puddings of various types but pies and cakes were usually reserved for special occasions or holidays. Ice cream was a summer treat. A single dip cost a nickel and a double was a dime, jimmies included.

Change of season was always a time to shop for new clothes. There were a few clothing shops in Haddonfield but only one that I can recall that catered to children. It was called the Lad and Lassie Shop and was located on the corner of Tanner Street and Kings Highway. Every year I went there for a new Easter outfit and back-to-school clothes. We all got our shoes at Ricci's. By the 1950's there were many great clothing shops in town. Also we had two department stores: Blum's and Oppenheim Collins. The shopkeepers and sales people were neighbors and people we got to know and who knew us and what we liked. More than once I passed a neighbor on the street who said they had gotten my favorite something or other in stock and I was very grateful for that kind of service.

I recall my father taking me with my small savings into Farrow's gift shop or The Tier Shoppe to buy a present for my mother. My own daughter had the same experience with her dad of going into Farrow's for a Mother's Day gift for me. Both children went into Neumeyer's for the Sunday paper and penny candy with us. As a child, a trip to Neumeyer's for me was always like going to a curiosity shop. The smell of tobacco was pungent, small toys lined the shelves, school supplies were available. In the front of the shop, the smell of newsprint was sharp and you could watch the tall stacks of newspapers dwindle as you stood waiting for your parent to have a chat with a neighbor.

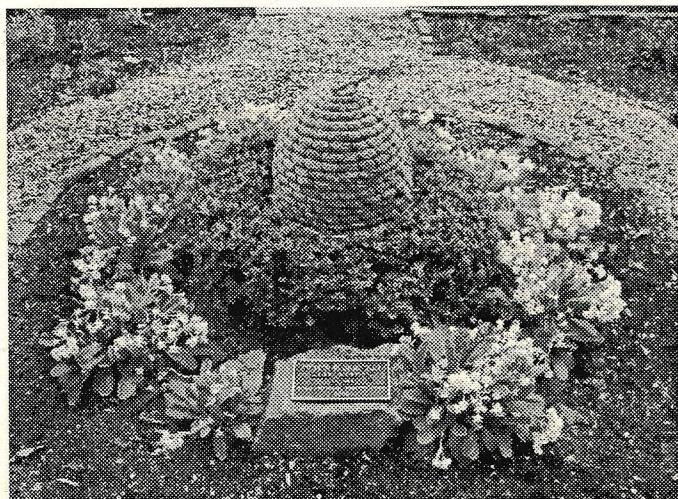
*We'll continue June Truitt's Recollections in our next Bulletin.*

## THE HERB GARDEN AT GREENFIELD HALL

It was more than thirty years ago that the Haddonfield Garden Club voted to establish an herb garden at Greenfield Hall. The Society approved the idea and the Garden Club went ahead with plans and designs appropriate to the mansion's period. Mrs. J. Howard Branson, a longtime Garden Club member with a special interest in herbs, researched the project and directed the planting of the garden.

The herb garden was officially dedicated on September 14, 1976 and named the Helen Branson Memorial Garden in appreciation for the many hours Mrs. Branson worked on the project, as well as for her enthusiasm in sharing her love and knowledge of gardening.

The Society is fortunate to have this lovely herb garden which has been used as an educational tool over the years. We appreciate the time and efforts put in by the Garden Club to maintain this valuable addition.



The plaque in the Herb Garden honors Helen Branson

## FUTURE ATTRACTIONS TIME TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**May 23 – Meeting** and program with Dr. Howard Gillette

**June 10 – Founder's Day Celebration** at Greenfield Hall

**August** – Both Greenfield Hall and the Samuel Mickle House will be closed

**September 26 – Meeting** and program

**October - Haunted Haddonfield Tours** during the month; after the town parade on the 30<sup>th</sup>, Greenfield Hall will again be

opened as a **Haunted Mansion**

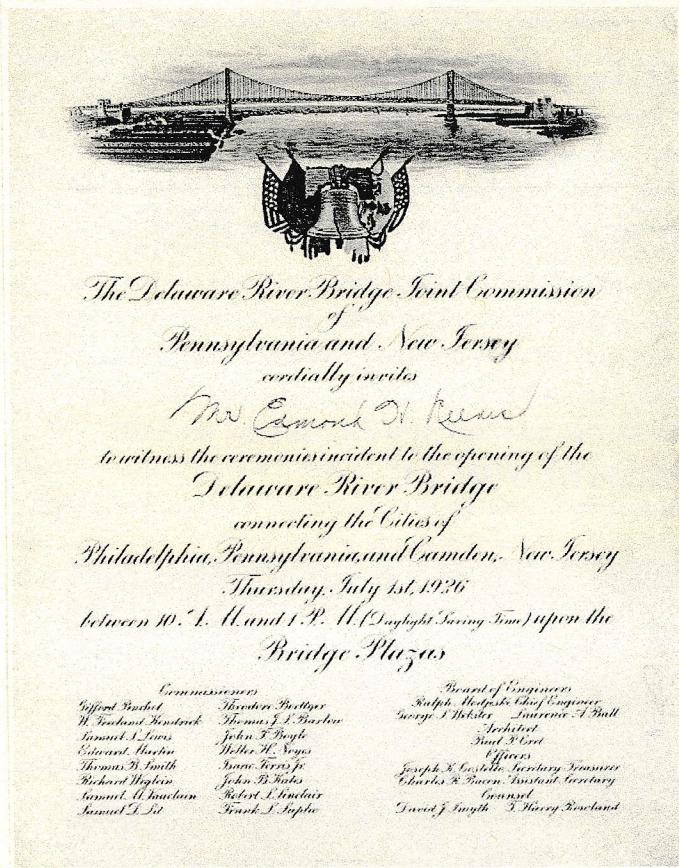
**December 13 – Christmas House Tours** during the day

The **Christmas House Tours** are sponsored by the Haddonfield Business Association and the Society. Consider being a host or hostess at one of the houses or offer your help in other ways. We'll have more information about the tours in future issues of the *Bulletin*.

## PATCO CAME TO TOWN

by Betty Lyons

On July 1, 1926, the Delaware River Bridge, the longest single span in the world at that time, opened between 6th and Penn Streets in Camden and 6th and Vine in Philadelphia. Renamed the Benjamin Franklin Bridge in 1955, it was to have a great impact on Haddonfield.



Invitation to Edmund H. Reeves, Sr., Camden attorney,  
to attend the opening-day ceremonies

One change was to promote bus service for commuters from points in South Jersey to Philadelphia and return. Before the bridge was built, buses and trolleys would transport people to Camden where they would have to take ferries to and from Philadelphia. The new direct travel pattern eliminated waiting, made possible one payment at the beginning of the ride, alleviated the problems which developed when ice in the river caused ferry boats to get stuck, and in many cases, the buses left the passengers off much closer to their homes. The ride, which took between forty-five minutes and an hour on good days, opened up development in the West Haddonfield area.

The #5 Bus, for example, stopped in Camden and all along Haddon Avenue, arriving on Kings Highway by two different routes: either by going down Haddon Avenue or by turning off onto Grove Street. From there, it went down Kings

Highway, turned off to Redman Avenue and circled Elizabeth Haddon School. The Haddonfield terminus for #5 was on Haddon Avenue along the curb beyond the gas station on the southeast corner of Haddon and Kings Highway, in front of what ultimately became the Haddon Gazette building.

There was also a train which began running over the bridge on June 7, 1936 from Camden to Philadelphia and back. There had been several studies and attempts to increase mass transportation in South Jersey but none was accepted or even taken seriously until the early 1960's. At that time, it was suggested that the bridge train be incorporated into plans for service to Lindenwold, Moorestown and Woodbury.

"The people of Haddonfield and surrounding communities are quiet, inconspicuous residents who attend major social events, read the 'in' papers, donate generously when called upon, but tend to be more devoted to their families than outside political activities – until aroused." That was the general philosophy of the time.

Throughout the years, there have been few occasions which evoked a greater response from almost everyone than the proposed Hi-Speed Line. A committee appointed by Mayor Albert B. Sharp, under the chairmanship of Richard A. Walter, stated Haddonfield's position. If the rapid transit could not be installed without interfering with the character, atmosphere and human values of the town, it should not be installed at all.

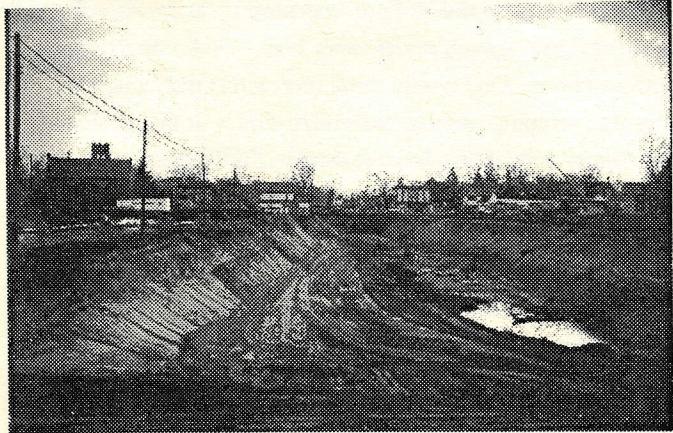
We remember well the packed Borough Hall meetings when Dick Walter carefully explained the plan and the committee's views, which were moderate, only to face an audience overwhelmingly opposed to it. Outsiders could not believe the solidarity which took place, or the number of petitions circulated in town.

There was solid support for not having an elevated track such as there is now in other towns along the line. As a result, Haddonfield is the only station in an open cut. There was an intense fight against changing the traffic patterns of the town. It had been suggested that certain roads be closed and a huge station and immense parking lots be built.

Many people attended the numerous meetings and gained as many concessions as they could. PATCO High Speed Line operations began on February 15, 1969 with the first trip from Lindenwold to center city Philadelphia, a distance of 14.2 miles. The Port Authority Transit Company (PATCO) is now a way of life and Philadelphia is now less than twenty minutes away. Unfortunately, some residents along Atlantic Avenue lost their houses but were relocated. By locating tracks in an open cut through the town, trains were made less visible and the noise of operation was reduced. At

one time, surveys were made to determine possible noise/air pollution and physical damage to buildings caused by the Line.

Provisions were made in the original PATCO plans to provide a regular train track beside the PATCO tracks. The train which used this track came from North Philadelphia via a special railroad bridge across the Delaware River and entered Haddonfield by means of a spur at Westmont, terminating in Lindenwold. Train service from Philadelphia to Atlantic City was initiated later by extending tracks from Lindenwold to Atlantic City, using the original route of the Pennsylvania-Reading Seashore Line.



Excavation near Redman Avenue looking toward Kings Highway

Those who led the fight against the Hi-Speed Line in the early days can congratulate themselves on their actions. Although the advent of this form of transportation has brought in more people, more development and some crime, it has not changed the basic character of the town. Instead, it has increased the number and type of activities we can enjoy in the City of Brotherly Love. It is indeed a contrast to the time-

consuming days of the horse-and-buggy, Model T and ferries.



Heavy equipment used in the construction of the line with the Lincoln Avenue crossing in the background

While safety and security are the top priorities of PATCO, there are many ideas for the future. At present a partnership with the Delaware River Port Authority and PATCO is in place to insure that their Speed line station planning is fully coordinated with Borough plans and consistent with local policy. No concrete plans have yet been publicized but thoughts have been expressed about building condos, "transit villages," in the part of the parking lot that is not very busy, and thus hopefully extending the ridership. The new Farmer's Market will be located in the parking area soon.

With the Haddonfield Commissioners and the PATCO Board working together, it would seem reasonable that something new will be taking place for the benefit of the Borough and for the transit company.

## FROM THE MERVINES

*We were all concerned when we learned about Tom Mervine's suffering a stroke in the early part of March. We are happy to report that Tom, a long-time member and Trustee, is home recuperating and doing very well. A note from Tom and Debbe follows:*

Dear Historical Society Members,

In the aftermath of Tom's stroke, the members of the Society were so supportive to both Tom and me. The calls, cards and prayers were hope sustaining. We truly appreciate your love and caring and want everyone to know that Tom's recuperation is nothing short of miraculous. Your continued

prayers are requested and treasured,

With grateful love,

Tom and Debbe Mervine

## SUMMER SUGGESTION

When the summer days stretch on and offer you extra time, stroll down Kings Highway and treat yourself to a visit to Greenfield Hall and the Samuel Mickle House. See what's new in the collections and perhaps do some research in the library. Our knowledgeable librarian and the enthusiastic library volunteers can lead you to a wealth of information about our town. Wander around and enjoy the serenity in the Gardens. Bring your visitors along and step back in time.

## BACKFIRE!

A rambling, rumbling, exhausting review by Don Wallace

While reviving the memories of all the old gas stations in town in the last two issues of the *Bulletin*, I was left with a few thoughts that I couldn't include because of space limitations, not to mention the limits of my audience attention span. But I hope that you, too, may now have begun to appreciate the importance of our unique automotive tool collection, and the automobile itself, as it has impacted the history of Haddonfield, its streets, parking lots, business district, Police Department, meter maids, crossing guards, and our lives in general. We have been absolutely overrun or run over to the point now of prescribing "traffic calming patterns" in our streets, of all things! I'm sure glad we didn't have such things when I was a kid here.

In discussing the vanishing running boards and horn buttons that were on our old cars, I thought we might also reminisce about car and truck BUMPERS. Especially, the back bumpers which, on the old vehicles, provided great winter sport here in Haddonfield. Grabbing onto a back bumper while holding onto one's Flexible Flyer sled, and keeping it carefully beneath one's belly with the other hand and/or one's feet was a very important skill, I am told. If one had to hold onto the bumper with both hands while rounding sharp corners at high rates of speed, or when the packed snow beneath one's runners suddenly disappeared -- and a shower of hot sparks from the scraping of raw steel on bare concrete or asphalt came cascading out from under one's legs -- the impending calamity could be avoided with deft foot-work in those unique back runner configurations. One would think (correctly) that concrete might provide less resistance, and fewer sparks, than asphalt as the steel actually was scraping over its embedded stones at the surface of the concrete. It is slipperier, one would think. It's a darn good thing those hearty kids didn't have to contend with these traffic calming intersections on Lincoln Avenue today.

At the Rotary Club's annual Oyster Supper, I asked John Richardson if he remembered the back-bumper sled rides when the proper snow was packed real hard under foot and tire. And without hesitation, he recalled that if you couldn't get to the bumper itself to hang on tight, that you would grab the legs of a guy who had a good hold on the bumper and ride along, sometimes three and four deep, just strung out behind the truck or car. Then, even when the driver slowed to take a corner -- for those guys who were all strung out behind -- it was a bit more like crack-the-whip! Having lost a few boys who were flung into the snow banks, with their weight gone now, you could work your hands up to those curved, continuous rear runners on the Flexible Flyer and hold on better. Cars were also better to hitch onto because they were going somewhere, not making multiple deliveries that most trucks were engaged in. Too many stops! Well, if you, too, have memories of this treacherous winter sport, please get them to me.

One could travel all over Haddonfield behind a Millside Farms milk delivery truck, but avoiding the exhaust-belching tail-pipe was a must. A backfire in the face was never pleasant and became especially relevant when multiple riders, five or six, were participating. Somebody had to get behind that tail-pipe! How old is someone who needs an explanation of what a backfire was? In that we commemorate the inventor/manufacturer of the Flexible Flyer sled, Samuel L. Allen, in our collections, you should also know that Getzinger's Westmont ACE Hardware now sells a "Flexible Flyer" sled -- "Made in China!"

If you look at your *Lost Haddonfield* on pages 58 and 59, the "Haddonfield Garage" at 117 Kings Highway East (with gas pumps at 9-11 Tanner St.) was a "Regal" dealership. We didn't include the dealerships or their service garages in our gas station count. But Haddonfield Chevrolet, McAllen Buick, and Winner Ford, the sole survivor now in Cherry Hill, and Howard Hunt's Hudson Terraplane dealership may also have contributed tools to our amazing collection here. You should see these ingenious problem-solvers that we are preserving for a posterity that will otherwise know only computer solutions.

Back in 1996, the first volunteer to respond to my request for help in the Museum Cellars was Larry Alff, who helped us shape up on Monday mornings for four years. Then he "re-retired" to continue restoring his 1911 Regal and Model T's, and preserving a Corvette. A story he told me was that when he started working for one station in town, he was assigned to scrub the entire garage floor with gasoline! His father made him quit that job right then and there! Good advice. Larry's Mother, Elnora Alff, had also been a loyal volunteer at Greenfield hall for many years.

If you can't find your copy of *Lost Haddonfield* by Kathy Tassini and Doug Rauschenberger, or need another copy as a gift, just come to Greenfield Hall where a dwindling supply is still available at \$18.50 (10% off for members) in our Museum Shop. This would make an excellent welcoming gift for a new neighbor just moving into Haddonfield.



# MEMBERSHIP

A big welcome to our new members

**Alan & Lynne Dugan**

Please use the following application form for new members. Invite your friends to join the fun and fellowship we enjoy.

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD 2005-2006

I (We) would like to join the Historical Society of Haddonfield. The type of membership desired is:

- |                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| ( ) Individual                   | \$ 25.00 |
| ( ) Household                    | 45.00    |
| ( ) Patron (per person)          | 100.00   |
| ( ) Life Membership (per person) | 500.00   |

Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## SPRING CLEAN-UP DAYS

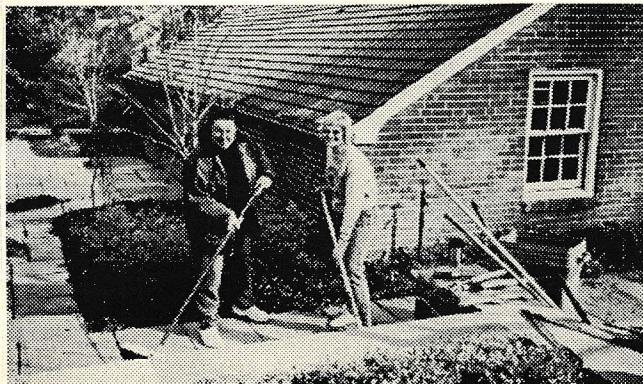
Once again our volunteers have responded to the call. On Saturdays, April 21 and 28, under the leadership of Bob Marshall, a group of members and friends prepared the Gardens of Greenfield Hall for the new season. Our thanks to Bob and his crew: Ann Biddle, Alyn Caulk, Andy Johnson, Andrea Kelly, Jack Kelly, Rob Kugler, Doug Rauschenberger, Sue Reitzel, Ruth Sine, Carol Smith, Dianne Snodgrass, Kathy and Jim Tassini, Helene Zimmer-Loew and an enthusiastic group of students from HMHS.



In the picture above, Bob Marshall, Doug Rauschenberger, Andrea Kelly, Jack Kelly, Helene Zimmer-Loew and Rob Kugler are all diligently at work



Above, Andy Johnson, Doug Rauschenberger and Bob Marshall prune bushes, while, on the left, Ann Biddle and Helene Zimmer-Loew edge along the Walkway



Pictures by Dianne Snodgrass

